(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(d) and (e) Government has sought the views of SEBI in this matter.

Losses in UTI

2426. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 68 schemes of the UTI only 12 schemes were able to gain profit of Rs.13.93 crore during July—December, 2001 and the rest of the schemes (56) posted a huge loss of Rs.1,653.62 crore; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto alongwith the remedial measures taken by Government to offset the huge loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) According to UTI, for the half year ended on 31st December, 2001, 45 schemes of UTI earned a net income of Rs.725.60 crore against 23 schemes which suffered a loss of Rs.984.95 crore.

(b) Government announced a financial package for US-64 on 28.12.01. As a part of financial package, UTI has been asked to implement time-bound reforms based on the recommendations of the various expert Committees including Tarapore Committee.

Loss in Passport production

2427. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "CAG reveals loss in passport production" appearing in the Deccan Chronicle on 26th December, 2001;

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to identify persons responsible for the loss and to specify penal measures to be adopted against them; and

(d) in what manner Government propose to prevent the recurrence of such lapses in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The loss in the Production of Passport was higher due to use of manual system of passport manufacturing. In order to enhance production and bring down the wastage, Government of India has procured the Automatic Passport Manufacturing System (APMS) and the wastage has been substantially reduced.

Revenue shortfall

2428. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item entitled "CAG raps Centre for revenue shortfall" appearing in the Business Standard dated 16th March, 2002;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems highlighted in the CAG's report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The thrust of the article is on the Customs revenue shortfall from the